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**Testimony before Committee regarding HB505
March 26, 2013**

**Thomas J Scanlin
1050 Boylan Road, Apt. 8
Bozeman, Montana**

Good morning! My name is Tom Scanlin; I am a US citizen, resident of Bozeman.

I am here today on behalf of two elderly friends (and myself, of course) who are too frail to come to Helena with me.

My aunt Mary, in her mid 80's, went into a coma after a botched knee operation and was kept alive (but comatose) for two years. I do not want that to happen to me.

We (that is my friends, my family, and I) don't understand why the government would want to get involved in such personal decisions as those which need to be considered at the end of our lives. We believe in the individual's freedom to decide end-of-life situations, and we believe that the government should be kept out of these private decisions. Those should be between our loved ones, our family doctor, our medical providers, and ourselves. We have given our doctors our advanced medical directives, and we are in the process of completing the POLST forms. We hope that what we have indicated on those forms will be honored by any medical staff who might attend to our needs in our final days.

We believe that aid in dying should remain legal; we are confident that it will give us comfort in our final days to know that our wishes will be carried out by persons whom we know, love, and trust.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.